

REALITY AND THE COSMIC ILLUSION

cosmic Illusion, to *Maya*, there is still in the universe itself a power of illusion of Ignorance. It is in the power of the Mind to conceive things that are not real, it is in its power even to create things that are not real or not wholly real; its very view of itself and universe is a construction that is not wholly real or wholly unreal. Where does this element of unreality begin and where does it stop, and what is its cause and what ensues on the removal of both the cause and the consequence? Even if all cosmic existence is not in itself unreal, cannot that description be applied to the world of Ignorance in which we live, this world of constant change and birth and death and frustration and suffering', and does not the removal of the Ignorance abolish for us the reality of the world which it creates, or is not a departure out of it the natural and only issue? This would be valid, if our ignorance were a *pure* ignorance without any element of truth or knowledge in it. But in fact our consciousness is a mixture of the true and the false; its acts and creations are not a pure invention, a baseless structure. The structure it builds, its form of things or form of the universe, is not a mixture of reality and the unreal

so much as a half comprehension, a half
expression
of the real, and, since all consciousness is
force and
therefore potentially creative, our
ignorance **lias** the
result of wrong creation, wrong
manifestation,
wrong action or misconceived and
misdirected
energy of the being. All world-existence is
mani-
festation, but our ignorance is **the agent**
of a partial,